

President's Report to the Council on Postsecondary Education

Robert L. King - July 24, 2009



Higher Education Work Group – Governor Beshear recently reconvened the Higher Education Work Group and charged it with focusing on four initiatives: financial aid, transfer, remediation, and cost savings and efficiencies. A final report is due November 1. The group, which includes CPE Chair Paul Patton, met earlier this week and had a productive meeting. I will keep the Council members informed about the activities of the work group. For additional information, visit <http://cpe.ky.gov/committees/hewg/> - where you can find the meeting schedule and other information.

SHEEO Annual Meeting – I attended my first national meeting of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) earlier this month in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The conference focused on a variety of topics that are directly on target for our particular needs here in Kentucky, including student success and retention, financial aid, adult learners. Our colleagues from around the country are dealing with the very same challenges that Kentucky faces, and I am comforted by the fact that the approaches and analysis we are developing are very consistent with the best thinking being applied to these issues.

2009 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship – Plans are progressing nicely for this year's conference, which will be Friday, September 11, at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. The conference brings together our public postsecondary trustees to provide nuts and bolts board development, as well as engage them in conversations about education policy issues of interest and concern. The theme this year is "Raising the Bar: Access, Quality, and Success," which appropriately describes our focus on expanding access and closing achievement gaps, while balancing those important objectives with an aggressive effort to increase educational quality and rigor. The challenge for the lay leaders who will be attending this conference is how to manage that balance, particularly in this financial austere time. I will keep you posted as the agenda is finalized.

Technology Stimulus Money - The rules for the stimulus Broadband grant programs were released July 1. Over 7 billion dollars will be available through six separate competitive grant programs aimed at increasing Broadband access and use of the Internet. We are working in several statewide collaborative teams to adapt the ideas developed in the concept papers prepared this past April. The first submissions are scheduled for August 14.

Kentucky Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning – This conference, jointly sponsored by CPE and the postsecondary community, was held May 20 and 21 in Lexington and offered college faculty and administrators a forum to explore the interconnectedness of K-12 and higher education. Presentations, panel discussions, and poster sessions provided over 400

conference participants the opportunity to discuss the scholarship of teaching and learning and to share innovative instructional techniques and technologies. Marc Tucker, author of the report *Touch Choices or Tough Times*, discussed his model for improving teaching and learning outcomes for America's schools. More information about the conference is located at <http://cpe.ky.gov/calendar/statewide/facdev.htm>

Kentucky's Higher Education Accountability System recognized as best practice - Education Sector, a nonprofit that promotes education reform, recognized Kentucky as being among the nation's ten best practice states for its higher education accountability system. Its report, *Ready to Assemble: Grading State Higher Education Accountability Systems*, graded states in 21 categories of accountability. The analysis not only focused on the types and quality of information states collect on a wide range of student outcomes and institutional practices, but on how well states use the information to drive policy and funding decisions, as well as the efforts they make to proactively publicize the information so that is accessible to students, parents, policymakers, media, and the general public. The Education Sector report, as well as individual state report cards, can be accessed at:

www.educationsector.org/research/research_show.htm?doc_id=934393

Kentucky's accountability report can be viewed at

<http://apps.cpe.ky.gov/reports/AccountabilityReport0708final.pdf>.

Vice President for Adult Education – Reecie Stagnolia has accepted the position of vice president of Kentucky Adult Education effective July 1. Reecie was named interim vice president for Kentucky Adult Education in October 2008 and has served as associate vice president of KYAE since July 2003, when the Department for Adult Education and Literacy (DAEL) transitioned to the Council on Postsecondary Education. He was with the DAEL from its creation in July 1993, serving in several capacities including a three-year stint as deputy commissioner and a 14-month stint as interim commissioner. Reecie is a respected leader and an effective advocate for adult education within the state and nationally. He has ably led KYAE during this most recent transition period, as he has in past transitions, and is an integral part of the CPE leadership team. We are fortunate to have someone with Reecie's deep knowledge, experience, and commitment to student success in this key position.

Senate Bill 1 update – The collaborative work of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education related to Senate Bill 1 is moving forward quite rapidly. A steering committee has been established and is scheduled to begin meeting August 12. This committee will provide guidance and oversight in the implementation of the comprehensive process to create one set of standards from K-12 to college entry-level courses and will provide insight in the development of strategic plans to reduce the remediation rates of high school graduates and increase the graduation rates of underprepared students. The SB 1 Postsecondary Mathematics Standards Workgroup and College Readiness Workgroup began meeting in late June. Each of these groups has representatives selected by the Kentucky Department of Education and public and independent institutions and statewide programs and agencies. The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development and the Kentucky Center for Mathematics are active partners. An embargoed draft of the Council of Chief State School

Officers (CCSSO) mathematics and language arts standards was released to KDE and CPE July 22. A review and comparison of these standards to the postsecondary standards is underway. Workgroups for language arts (reading and writing) will be formed in early August. Discussions and updates to legislative committees and statewide agencies are ongoing.